

# Programme Specification

1. <b>Awarding institution/body</b>	The College of Law
2. <b>Teaching institution</b>	The College of Law
3. <b>Programme accredited by</b>	The Joint Academic Stage Board
4. <b>Programme level</b>	Honours , in the Framework for Higher Education Qualifications
5. <b>Final Award</b>	Diploma in Law LL Dip
6. <b>Programme</b>	Graduate Diploma in Law
7. <b>Date of production/revision</b>	September 2007

## 8. Educational aims of the programme

The general educational aims of the College's Graduate Diploma in Law course set out below reflect the aims of the Academic Stage of legal education. These aims specify how the College intends its Graduate Diploma in Law programme to contribute to and fit with the education and career development of the students who attend the course. Students pursuing the Graduate Diploma in Law will be properly equipped not only to proceed to the Vocational Stage of legal training, but also to become effective legal practitioners.

The Graduate Diploma in Law's aims acknowledge that for the majority of students the importance of the course is that it enables them to satisfy the requirements of the Academic Stage of legal education and proceed to the Vocational Stage. However, the College's course has also been designed to have currency and value in a wider educational context.

The general educational aims of The College of Law in relation to its Graduate Diploma in Law students are:

- (a) to enable students to develop as independent, autonomous and reflective lawyers;
- (b) to provide students with a learner-centred educational environment;
- (c) to enable students to draw upon and enhance prior learning and personal experience;
- (d) to enable students to achieve:
  - .. a wide general knowledge of the working of the English Legal System
  - .. a thorough understanding of the techniques of legal reasoning
  - .. knowledge and understanding of the basic principles of Obligations (Contract, Restitution and Tort), Criminal Law, Public Law (including Constitutional Law, Administrative Law and Human Rights), EC Law, Property Law and Equity and Trusts;

(Some of the knowledge acquired will be based substantially on current research or recent developments in legal practice. Students will have a knowledge of the way in which the basic principles of each subject have developed. Students will acquire knowledge and understanding at a level, which enables them to critically analyse abstract concepts, develop problem-solving strategies, critically evaluate developments in legal practice and appreciate the limits of law.)

- (e) to provide students with a curriculum which enables them to satisfy the requirements set by the Law Society and the General Council of the Bar for the Academic Stage of legal training;
- (f) to enable students to acquire the cognitive and practical skills relevant to a lawyer;
- (g) to enable students to acquire an awareness of the place of law within the relevant commercial, social, political, historical, jurisprudential, cultural and practical contexts;
- (h) to enable students to acquire the necessary intellectual and practical legal skills which will allow them independently to achieve an understanding of areas of law beyond the foundation subjects;
- (i) to enable students to acquire the aptitude to develop as lawyers within the global environment by providing them with an awareness of other legal systems;
- (j) to enable students to acquire aptitudes and skills which will facilitate their transition to the Legal Practice Course or Bar Vocational Course or into vocational education for other professions which have a legal element;
- (k) to enable students to develop a personal view of their role as future lawyers, aware of the ethical, social and political context in which they will operate, and conscious of their professional and personal responsibility as lawyers; and
- (l) to enable students to develop transferable skills.

9. **Programme outcomes** - The programme enables students to develop and demonstrate knowledge and understanding, qualities, skills and other attributes in the following areas:

**Knowledge and understanding**

**A Knowledge and understanding of:**

Students should be able to

- demonstrate sound knowledge of principles in a wide range of subject areas within the subjects set out in 7(d)
- demonstrate knowledge of one subject outside the taught course
- produce a high standard of accuracy in written work which demonstrates the appropriate level of knowledge and understanding

Students should be aware of:

- the way in which law constitutes a system
- underlying policy issues
- relevant social, political, commercial contexts
- process of development of fundamental principles
- some recent research or developments in legal practice
- some features of other legal systems

**Teaching/learning methods and strategies:**

Acquisition of these outcomes is through a combination of large-group sessions, small-group sessions, directed self-study, computer assisted learning, coursework and tests. Throughout the learner is encouraged to actively engage with the subject matter. The balance of elements ensures that learners have sufficient time and help to participate fully in the learning process.

**Assessment:**

Assessment of knowledge and understanding of the seven foundation subjects is through unseen written examinations.

**Skills and other attributes**

**B Cognitive (thinking) skills**

Analysis - able to:

- identify relevant facts and issues
- distinguish similar factual situations by reference to legal principle
- qualify and apply exceptions to legal principles
- apply legal principles in an orderly way

Problem-solving-able to:

- identify legal, factual and practical issues arising in the context of legal practice
- use standard techniques for resolving issues by application of legal principles
- present arguable conclusions

Critical judgment and evaluation - able to:

- express a view based on interpretation of primary sources and study of secondary sources
- assimilate extensive factual material and present a reasoned personal view

**Teaching/learning methods and strategies:**

Cognitive skills are developed through the teaching and learning programme outlined above (and in section 10). Analysis and critical judgement and evaluation are further developed through critical analysis exercises and feedback in each of the 7 foundation subjects and through small group teaching. Problem solving skills are further developed in self-study activities and small group session activities and feedback.

**Assessment:**

Cognitive skills are assessed through the foundation subject essay, the dissertation and unseen written exams. Feedback is given on the foundation subject essay.

## Skills and other attributes

### C Practical legal skills

Research-able to:

- select key relevant issues for research
- access, comprehend and use standard research materials
- use both electronic and hard copy research tools
- perform directed research tasks without assistance
- devise a strategy for researching a topic, using standard research tools

Personal development – able to:

- complete directed study without assistance
- demonstrate commitment to development as a lawyer
- make an assessment of their own progress, identify and formulate issues on which assistance is needed, and act on feedback given
- plan and execute a project within the taught course, without supervision
- plan and execute a project outside the taught course, with supervision
- plan workload and meet deadlines

Communication-able to:

- communicate effectively in a range of formats, both oral and written
- appreciate the requirements of intended audiences, and reflect on an appropriate style
- appreciate and practise the requirements of legal

### Teaching/learning methods and strategies:

Practical legal skills are developed through the teaching and learning programme outlined above (and in section 10). Research is further developed through legal research exercises and feedback, self-study activities and small group teaching. Communication is further developed through course work, presentations in small group sessions and participation in curriculum-related activities. Personal development is further supported by participation in curriculum-related activities.

### Assessment:

Practical legal skills are assessed through the foundation subject essay, the dissertation and unseen written exams. Feedback is given on the

### D Transferable skills

Communication-able to:

- communicate points orally and in writing
- use a style appropriate for a familiar audience
- include some referencing in their written work
- use IT media

Work management-able to:

- plan and execute a project within a taught course, without supervision
- plan and execute a project outside a taught course, with supervision
- plan workload and meet deadlines

Self-reliance-able to:

- complete directed study with limited assistance
- assimilate and present arguments based on standard textbooks and limited wider reading
- follow a course without frequent direction by tutors

Research-able, with limited assistance, to:

- access, comprehend and use standard research materials
- use both electronic and hard copy research tools
- perform directed research tasks

Numeracy-able to:

- adapt numerical skills acquired up to degree level for use in another (legal) context

Teamwork-able to:

- work with a group to find agreed solutions to set problems
- negotiate and accept responsibility for performing an aspect of a team task

### Teaching/learning methods and strategies:

Transferable skills are developed through the teaching and learning programme outlined above (and in section 10).

### Assessment:

Where not formally assessed, transferable skills are assessed informally, by means of tutor evaluation of performance in small groups, and

The following reference points were used in designing the programme:

- requirements of the Joint Academic Stage Committee
- law subject benchmark statement set by the Quality Assurance Agency in respect of the law degree

**10. Programme structures and features**

The programme is offered in full-time (1 year), part-time (2 years) and distance-learning (2 years) study modes. The full-time course comprises 36 study weeks in one year. The part-time and distance-learning course comprise 36 study weeks spread over 2 years. The academic years are divided into three terms. During two reading weeks students have an opportunity to reflect on their learning and to consolidate their work on knowledge and skills

The course is structured as follows:

- Pre-course (students are sent an interactive study pack on legal method before the start of the course)
- Induction and legal method course.

An innovative feature of the course is the inclusion of curriculum related activities which include eg street law, mooting and a court visits programme and enable students to become actively involved in their own learning.

<b>Induction</b>
<b>Units</b>
Introduction to College
Introduction to course
Learning outcomes and working methods
Curriculum-related activities
Library and IT resources
Careers and career facilities
Team building

<b>Legal Method</b>
<b>Units</b>
Development of the English Legal System
The Court System in England and Wales
Legal Research
Statutory interpretation
<i>Ratio decidendi</i> and the Doctrine of Precedent
Advanced Legal Reasoning Techniques: Problem-based Learning

- The seven foundation subjects are studied in parallel throughout the course (full-time). For the part-time and distance learning course, Contract, Tort and Public Law are studied in parallel in year 1 and the remaining subjects in year 2

<b>Contract</b>
<b>Units</b>
Is there a contract?
Contents of a contract
Remedies performance and discharge
False preliminary statements
Problem-based learning
Consolidation

<b>Tort</b>
<b>Units</b>
Introduction to Tort - trespass to the person
Negligence
Remedies
Special liability regimes
Torts relating to land
Defamation
Consolidation

<b>Public Law</b>
<b>Units</b>
Nature and basic principles of Constitutional Law and the institutions of the State
Nature and basic principles of Administrative Law
Civil Liberties

<b>Criminal Law</b>
<b>Units</b>
Introduction and overview of fundamental principles in criminal law
Developing the analysis and application of fundamental principles
The extent of criminal liability
Complex offences, defences and consolidation

<b>EC Law</b>
<b>Units</b>
Introduction to the EC and EU Institutions
Enforcing EC rights
The Fundamental Freedoms : Free Movement in the Single Market
Competition Law : anti-competitive agreements and misuse of market power
Consolidation

<b>Equity and Trusts</b>
<b>Units</b>
Introduction to Equity and Trusts
Creation and operation of trusts
Equitable obligations
Trusts and Insolvency
Consolidation

<b>Land Law</b>
<b>Units</b>
Fundamental and pervasive concepts of Land Law
Trusts of land and Co-ownership
Leases & Leasehold Covenants
Third-party rights over land
Consolidation

- The dissertation allows students to demonstrate their ability to study, research and write up an area of law going beyond the basic principles of the seven foundation subjects and which they have not been specifically taught. Students have a choice of titles and can select their own title.
- Revision and final examination

The course was revised in 2005-06 to give particular emphasis in selected small-group sessions to problem-based learning.

## II. Credit Schedule

	Level	Credit
Induction and Legal Method	I	10
The Dissertation	M	15
Contract	H	20
Criminal	H	20
Equity and trusts	H	20
Land	H	20
Public	H	20
Tort	H	20
EC Law	H	20
Total credits		165

**Please note** This specification provides a concise summary of the main features of the programme and the learning outcomes that a typical student might reasonably be expected to achieve and demonstrate if he/she takes full advantage of the learning opportunities that are provided. More detailed information on the learning outcomes, content and teaching, learning and assessment methods of the programme can be found in the course handbook. The accuracy of the information contained in this document is reviewed by the College of Law and may be checked by the JASB.